



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/665,839	09/19/2003	Stephen C. James	50922/RDS/J106	6047

23363 7590 02/22/2005

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP
PO BOX 7068
PASADENA, CA 91109-7068

EXAMINER

LEE, KYUNG S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2832

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/665,839		JAMES, STEPHEN C.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Kyung S. Lee		2832	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 18-22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>0903</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wecke (US 6,236,006):

Wecke teaches a switch comprising:

a switch body 25 having a connector portion 1 (figs. 1-3);

an insulation displacement connector (IDC) on portion 1;

two tines 6 with an open ended slot (fig. 1) for receiving an wire transverse to the slot (top and bottom tines in fig. 1);

an insulation flap 2 hinged to the body 1;

the flap having an open position (in dash), a catch position (upon lock 13 reaching 14) and latched position (please refer to fig. 2); and

the flap having a portion 9 straddling the slot (upon latching, please see fig. 3) to secure the wire to the slot.

Regarding claims 3 and 7, guide means 15 align the flap and the body to provide a seal.

Art Unit: 2832

Regarding claim 4, the intermediate catch position, prior to latching may be about 10 to 20 degrees. Fig. 2 of Wecke shows a motion of various angles prior to latching (from the dashed lines to the solid lines).

Regarding claim 5, please refer to fig. 1 of Wecke.

Regarding claim 8, the guide member 15 is located between the flap 2 and the connector portion (no reference number but portion near 14) of the body 1.

Regarding claim 10, the guide member 15 comprises a pin on the connector portion and a hole on the flap (as can be seen in fig. 2, by reference number 15).

Regarding claim 11, the guide member comprises a pair of wings (fig. 3 near 15) on the connector portion 1 straddling (inner) edges of the flap 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2, 6 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wecke in view of Durand et al. (US 4,461,528).

Wecke teaches the claimed invention except for the hinge, the flap and the body being integrally molded plastic. Durand et al. teaches a integrally molded plastic housing for an IDC device to provide easier assembly. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the IDC device of Wecke with the integrally molded

Art Unit: 2832

casing as taught by Durand et al., since the integrally molded casing of Durand et al. would provide the IDC of Wecke with an easier and quicker assembly.

Wecke teaches the claimed invention except for a rounded groove inside the flap. Durand et al. teaches a IDC device (fig. 1) with a flap 12, the flap having a rounded groove 41' for the purpose of holding the wire 50 in place. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the IDC device of Wecke with the rounded groove as taught by Durand et al., since the rounded groove of Durand et al. would have provided the IDC device of Wecke with means of holding a wire in place.

5. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wecke in view of Durand et al. as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Yamamoto et al. (US 5,675,890).

Wecke and Durand et al. teach the claimed invention except for the flap having a slit to straddle the IDC for pressing the wire in the tines. Yamamoto et al. teaches an IDC device with a flap 91 (figs. 2c and 3a) having slits for pressing a wire W2 into the tines. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the IDC device of Wecke and Durand et al. with the flap having slit as taught by Yamamoto et al., since the flap of Yamamoto et al. would provide the device of Wecke and Durand et al. a means for pressing the wire into the tines and provide a guide for the IDC, as shown in fig. 3a of Yamamoto et al.

6. Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wecke in view of Maney (US 5,871,374).

Wecke teaches the claimed invention except for the slot formed in a keyhole shaped opening. Maney teaches a keyhole shaped opening connector to press a wire into electrical

Art Unit: 2832

connection. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the IDC device of Wecke with a keyhole shaped opening connector as taught by Maney for the purpose of pressing a wire into the connector to provide electrical connection.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 18-22 are allowed over the prior art of record.

Claim 18 recites a switch with an IDC having “a pair of rounded grooves...” and “a pair of slits ...” Claimed grooves with slits on the flap in combination with the other claimed limitations of claim 18 are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art. Claims 19-22 depend on claim 18.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyung S. Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-1994. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH 5:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin G. Enad can be reached on (571) 272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2832

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kyung S. Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2832

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. S. Lee', written over the printed name and title.

12/10/04